

## **Human Resources Bulletin 2000-2**

### **Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Updates**

The TSP open season continues through January 31. During this time any eligible employee may enroll in the TSP, and current participants may change their future contributions or the way they are invested. Elections are made on Form TSP-1. The next open season will run May15-July 31. The autumn open season will begin October 15. Beginning next year the open seasons will begin each April 15 and October 15. Expanded withdrawal options will be available beginning in October. If you are separated from Federal Service and are considering making a withdrawal from your account, read the description in the November 1999 TSP Highlights flyer and the leaflet "How the TSP is Changing". Both were distributed with TSP statements and the information is also available on the TSP website <http://www.tsp.gov>. More information about the new options will be in the Plan Summary which will be distributed in March.

Your TSP PIN gives you access to your account information and to some account transactions. If you have lost or forgotten your TSP PIN, you can request a new one in the Account Access section of the TSP website.

### **A New Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and Medicare Booklet Available**

The new booklet answers questions about how the FEHB Program and Medicare work together to provide health benefits coverage to active or retired Federal employees covered by both programs. The publication explains what Medicare does and does not cover, who is eligible for Medicare and how benefits are coordinated between Medicare and FEHB plans. The publication is available on the Office of Personnel Management website <http://www.opm.gov/hr/insure/MCare/MHB01.htm>

### **The Calendar Year 2000 ACCES Accomplishment Rating Session Schedule Published**

Employees covered by a formal DA career program, wishing to be referred for positions, must register in the Army Civilian Career Evaluation System (ACCES). Subject matter experts in the career programs rate applicant packages quarterly on specific session dates. In order to have the most current information available for rating, applicants should assure updates are made prior to these rating sessions. For initial registrants, completed packages must be done prior to these dates. Applicants may use either paper DA forms to complete packages or individuals in certain career programs can complete packages electronically via the internet. Suspense dates are strictly observed and cannot be extended. Applications received after the suspense date will be held for the next rating session. Complete ACCES information including session dates can be found on <http://cpol.army.mil/ezacces/eahome1.html>

## Army Management Staff College (AMSC)

The Mission Statement of AMSC is:

- To educate and prepare selected Army civilian and military leaders to assume more important leadership and management responsibilities by providing instruction in strategies, doctrines, and systems related to the Total Army with emphasis on the sustaining base.
- To develop doctrine, provide consulting services, and to research with emphasis on the sustaining base.

The Army Management Staff College (AMSC) traces its origins to 1985 when the Inspector General examined civilian school opportunities within the Department of the Army and noted two key issues. First, there was no management or leadership training for key civilian employees comparable to that provided by military staff and senior service colleges. Second, there was no comprehensive program for military or civilians to train in Army-specific subjects geared to the sustaining base. In response to these weaknesses, the Chief of Staff of the Army approved establishment of a program to educate and prepare selected military and civilian leaders. Programs were conducted initially at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies in Linthicum, Maryland. The pilot class of 42 civilian and 8 military students represented 17 different commands, 19 civilian career fields, and 8 military career branches. Subsequently, in 1990, the College moved to the Radisson Mark Plaza Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. Class size expanded to 100 students, with three classes held annually. Fort Belvoir, Virginia, was announced as the permanent home for AMSC, and the College moved into its new quarters in Humphreys Hall in January 1993. At that time, the resident class size increased 100 to 200 students. Students are billeted at Knadle Hall, directly across from Humphreys Hall. In 1995, the program received its official title of Sustaining Base Leadership and Management Program (SBLM). To accommodate students who cannot attend the SBLM in residence because of compelling professional or personal reasons, the College instituted a Nonresident Program. The pilot Nonresident Program began in September 1992 and graduated in September 1993. This program provides the same content as the Resident Program but is adapted to the distance learner. New classes are started each year in the April/May timeframe. Since AMSC was established, 4,403 students have graduated from 38 SBLM classes.

Admission and qualification requirements for SBLM may be found at the Army Management Staff College website <http://www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/apply.htm> as well as class dates. Application packages for the next Resident Course (00-3, 19 Sep-13 Dec 00) are due to your servicing CPAC by 3 Mar 00.

Army Civilian Training, Education & Development System (ACTEDS) FY2000 Catalog

The new ACTEDS catalog is now available on-line. Surf to the CPOL website at <http://cpol.army.mil/> and click on the ACTEDS link. The catalog contains information on training and career development opportunities available to both Career Program and selected courses for Non-Career Army employees for FY 2000.

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